

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 02022 211808Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T PARIS 02022

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 3
TAGS: IT, FR, US
SUBJECT: ITALIAN SITUATION -- CONSULTATIONS WITH
ALLIES

1. I FOLLOWED UP MY CONVERSATION WITH ELYSEE
SECRETARY-GENERAL FRANCOIS-PONCET (SEPTTEL) WITH A
MEETING WITH MFA SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU JANUARY 20.
FOLLOWING MY DESCRIPTION OF OUR CONCERNS (PER STATE
8959), SOUTOU CONFIRMED THAT ITALIAN SITUATION WAS
SERIOUSLY WORRYING TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. HE
SAID THAT, IF THE PCI ENTERED GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE
FRENCH ELECTIONS IN MARCH, THERE COULD BE A PROFOUND
EFFECT IN FRANCE. HE BLAMED MORO FOR BELIEVING
THERE COULD BE NO SOLUTION WITHOUT THE PCI.

2. HOWEVER, SOUTOU WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT THE
FRENCH COULD DO. HE SAID THAT FRENCH POLITICIANS
SUCH AS SENATE PRESIDENT POHER AND CENTRIST LEADER
LECANUET HAD TAIKED TO DC LEADERS ABOUT FRENCH
CONCERNS AND THE NEED TO KEEP THE PCI OUT OF THE
GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE FRENCH ELECTIONS. BUT
SOUTOU FELT THAT IF THE FRENCH SPOKE OUT, THE
ITALIANS WOULD SIMPLY REJECT THEIR ADVICE. THE

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BEST SOLUTION IS FOR THE LEFT TO SUFFER A DEFEAT
IN FRANCE; THAT COULD HAVE AN EXEMPLARY EFFECT IN
ITALY.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE US STATEMENT ON ITALY, SOUTOU
FELT THAT IT HAD SERVED A PURPOSE. HE SAID THAT
IT WAS NECESSARY FOR US TO LET THE ITALIANS KNOW

WHERE IT STOOD. HE ADDED THAT "ITALY
IS ITALY" -- WHICH I TAKE TO MEAN THAT HE DIDN'T
FEEL THE SAME MEDICINE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR
FRANCE. AS FOR THE WAVE OF CRITICISM IN FRANCE
ABOUT THE US STATEMENT, SOUTOU -- IN CONTRAST
TO MORE AGITATED QUAI WORKING LEVELS -- REFERRED
ME TO THE QUAI'S APPRECIABLY LESS CRITICAL REACTION
AND SAID NOT TO PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO THE REST.
GAMMON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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